

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Jocelyn Pineda , I am a Student from Waterbury

I stand in support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status. Expanding access to HUSKY regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 26; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age. If Connecticut wants a future that includes healthy families and a stable, thriving and growing workforce that is ready to meet the needs of our future, Connecticut must ensure that these individuals have access to health coverage.

I am Jocelyn Pineda & I am currently a first generation college student. HUSKY For Immigrants matters to me because throughout my whole life, my parents and sister were undocumented. This is important because healthcare is a right that everyone deserves.

The lack of health insurance affected my family personally because they were undocumented and were not able to access certain resources. My parents used to pay out of pocket for many services because they did not qualify for Medicaid. This caused my family and others around me to not get regularly seen by the doctor & potentially have certain conditions that were not caught on in time.

This would impact my family & my community because they will be able to take care of themselves by seeing the doctor more often. This will also be helpful because children are the most susceptible to getting sick so they need this.

I support **HB 6616** and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

Jocelyn Pineda